Healthcare Organization Commitment

Contact Details

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
Christiana Care Early Warning Score (CEWS)

What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?
Challenge 4 - Monitoring for Opioid-Induced Respiratory Depression

Commitment Start Date
01/07/2016
Commitment Summary
Patients often exhibit signs of physiologic deterioration in the hours before harm events occur. In patients with critical abnormalities in vital signs and health assessments, a failure to react promptly or commensurately escalate care constitutes a failure to rescue and may result in serious harm. Early detection of these warning signs may provide an opportunity for timely response and prevention of all-cause acute clinical deterioration outside of the intensive care unit (ICU). There is a need for an integrated acuity metric that optimally synthesizes physiological symptoms and clinical expertise to support clinical decision making.

Commitment Description & Detail
Christiana Care Health System has designed the Christiana Care Early Warning Score (CEWS) as a collaborative interdisciplinary effort to reduce all-cause acute clinical deterioration impacting inpatients in Christiana (CH) and Wilmington (WH) Hospitals using implementation science guided by the Value Institute. CEWS is an integrated electronic health records (EHR)-based predictive algorithm coupled with an electronic Nurse Screening Assessment (NSA) that integrates fundamental health domains and patient safety assessments to create a measure of patient acuity. This effort focuses on eliminating preventable harm and delivering the level of quality and safety our patients and their families expect and deserve.

CEWS aims to provide a standardized real-time patient acuity metric to all Christiana Care physicians, nurses, and health care staff with corresponding interpretation and clinical recommendations. CEWS can add another layer of early detection to the Rapid Response Team system, helping staff recognize high-risk patients before their condition deteriorates.

At the patient level: CEWS aims to inform patient identification and risk categorization.

At the system level: CEWS focuses on acuity overview; acuity communication; resource allocation; and care transitions.

Action Plan
1. Build a consensus on the appropriate metrics for CEWS clinical implementation. 2. Identify targets for each metric. 3. Identify sponsors and champions. 4. Promote implementation goals through education programs. 5. Phased roll-out of CEWS visualization and decision support functionality.